

De la Mesa J.M.
(Mormon artist)

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Artists-D

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

J.M. De La Peza

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Paints Lincoln Here for Smallest Republic

NOV 20 - 1939

High on a precipitous rock in northern Italy stands San Marino, smallest republic in the world.



De La Peza

Its altitude (2437 feet), its inaccessibility, and the fierce love of freedom of its 9500 citizens have combined to assure the country an independent existence, with but brief interruptions, during the past 1000 years.

Its history of liberty and independence was known to Abraham Lincoln, who wrote admiring letters to San Marino. And Abraham Lincoln's devotion to the cause of freedom, still is well known to San Marino, which preserves his letters as jealously as America its own Constitution.


Today there hangs in San Marino a portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by a Cleveland, J. M. De La Peza of 5908 Beverly court, a Mexican who, fleeing the Catholic persecutions of the Plutarco Calles regime 12 years ago, himself sought freedom in America.

And like all Mexicans, Senor De La Peza also is a great admirer of

Lincoln, whose support of Benito Juarez was an important factor in Mexico attaining independence from Napoleon III.

For the past five years Senor De La Peza has lived in Cleveland. He is a friend of Prof. Kenneth Scott of the romance language department at Western Reserve University, who summers each year in Italy.

This year, before sailing for Italy, Prof. Scott asked Senor De La Peza to paint a portrait of Lincoln. When it was completed he took it with him to San Marino, where it now hangs in an American Room built by the American Society in the world's smallest republic.



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De L. B. 21 M.
(Mexico 31 M.)

DECEMBER 1914

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